

“North Carolina's registry has been in place since 1996 to help give sexual assault victims a sense of safety,” Garrou said. “Closing this loophole will make sure that people who cross state lines are fully aware of our registry and our efforts to protect North Carolina's families.”

“The N.C. Court of Appeals has ruled that we need to amend our law to provide adequate notification to out-of-state offenders of the duty to register upon moving to North Carolina,” said Reps. Weiss and Insko in a statement. “Our proposed legislation, along with Gov. Easley’s action, will ensure that our laws are constitutional and that our citizens have the information they need to protect themselves and their families.”

Congress enacted the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act in 1994 to provide a system and outline for states to create sex offender registration programs. The Wetterling Act was modified in 1996 as "Megan's Law" in honor of Megan Nicole Kanka who was sexually assaulted and murdered by a neighbor. The Kanka family was unaware of the neighbor's history as a convicted sex offender and became the primary proponents of the law to notify families when a convicted sex offender moves into a neighborhood. The Wetterling Act was later modified by "The Pam Lyncher Sexual Offender Tracking Act of 1996."

The North Carolina General Assembly enacted the state's first Sex Offender Registration Law, known as the "Amy Jackson Law" on Jan. 1, 1996. The law was rewritten in 1998 and 2001 to comply with standards outlined in the federal Wetterling, Megan and Pam Lyncher laws.

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